

In the Specification

Please amend the "Related Applications" paragraph appearing at page 1, lines 1-4, as follows:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application is related to pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/753,049 filed December 28, 2000, entitled *Distribution of Packets in a Wireless Communications System Using Multicast Protocols*.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 7, line 29 through page 8, line 13, as follows:

While this figure illustrates roam manager 20 as a separate component, system 10 contemplates incorporating the functionalities of roam manager 20 into any suitable component or components. That is, devices in packet network 16, gateway 18, stations 14, mobile units 12, and/or other suitable equipment may provide some or all of the functions of roam manager 20. Moreover, any of the functionalities of roam ~~manger~~ manager 20 may be separated and distributed among components of system 10 and may be implemented using any suitable combination of hardware and/or software. For example, in certain wireless systems, each mobile unit 12 may monitor the strength of pilot signals received from stations 14 and communicate a list of "candidate" stations 14 (each with a relatively high potential for supporting a wireless link) to a central, decision-making component. Moreover, in a system implementing a form of High Data Rate (HDR) communications, such as CDMA 1xEV-DO (1x Evolution-Data Only) or 1xEV-DV (data and voice), mobile unit 12 may further determine, on a packet-by-packet or frame-by-frame basis, a single station 14 from which to receive communications. Thus, elements may work in coordination to effect handoff decisions and manage membership in multicast groups.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 11, line 18 through page 12, line 2, as follows:

In addition to registering and removing stations 14 from multicast groups, roam ~~manger~~ manager 20 may direct the establishment of wireless links between stations 14 and mobile units 12. For example, after registering station A with a multicast group, roam ~~manger~~ manager 20 may direct station A to communicate with mobile unit 12 and direct mobile unit 12 to communicate with station A. However, system 10 contemplates stations 14 and mobile units 12 using any appropriate methods for determining when to establish wireless links and provide wireless services. For example, station A may detect its registration into a multicast group by roam manager 20 and, in response, begin providing service to mobile unit 12. In addition, while this example focuses on the registration and removal of station A in a multicast group based on mobile unit 12 moving in and out of an area serviced by station A, system 10 contemplates roam manager 20 using any suitable criteria for adding and removing stations 14 from multicast groups. Thus, roam manager 20 may manage membership in multicast groups based on geographic location, load balancing, and/or any other suitable criteria.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 13, lines 3-12, as follows:

In operation, gateway 18 receives information for communication to mobile unit 12 from outside network 26, in packet form or otherwise, using interface 40. Upon receipt, processor 44 determines whether mobile unit 12 has an associated multicast group and, if so, determines the multicast address for mobile unit 12. Processor 40 44 then generates a multicast packet (or packets) encapsulating this information and communicates the packet to packet network 16 using interface 42. Processor 40 44 may also fragment information as one or more packets and generate multicast packets encapsulating this fragmented information. Packet network 16 then communicates this multicast packet to each station 14 registered for the multicast group associated with mobile unit 12.